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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/083,509

02/27/2002

Shinji Uchida

020226

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7590

11/04/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KHIEM M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/083509

Applicant(s)

Uchida

Examiner

R. N. GUYEN

Group Art Unit

2839

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE — 3 — MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/31/03
- ☒ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Bowden, Jr. (4,379,607).

The APA socket for an electrical connector comprising a cavity for allowing a plug to be inserted therein as discussed in the background and shown in figures 17-18 of the present invention. It is noted that the APA utilizes hinged doors instead of shutter biased by an elastic member for blocking a through hole of the socket.

Bowden, Jr. discloses a shutter mechanism 108 for blocking a through hole of a socket 50 and being released from the blocked state by insertion of the plug 72.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a shutter biased by an elastic member for blocking the through hole of the APA socket in view of the teachings of Bowden, Jr. The use of spring biased shutter means is old and well known in the art which seem to require less interior space for operation than the hinged shutter doors of the

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prior art. Regarding the various arrangements of such shutter in relation to the socket housing is deemed obvious location of part and socket design.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed with the amendments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding applicant's arguments that the reference to Bowden jr. is related to two prongs and not a single prong as that of applicant's invention. However, it is submitted that the use of one prong or two-prong is not critical since the instant invention is related to the shutter being released upon the insertion of a plug.

Regarding applicant's arguments that when a single prong 72a is inserted into a through hole, a slide 100a is displaced to release a different through hole from a blocked state.

The through hole encountered by prong 72a remains in a blocked state by the presence of slide 100b across the through hole. Again, it is submitted that is is not critical which through hole is released from a blocked state since the instant invention is related to the shutter being released upon the insertion of a plug. Also, applicant is directed to column 8, lines 15-30 which mention that the slide 100a is also displaced by the insertion of prong 72a into the through hole.

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Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Khiem Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1738. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306.


KHIEM NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

K.N.

November 3, 2003